is a sample of nominate *brunneiventris* from the southernmost part of its range in northwest Bolivia. A preliminary examination of unpublished data suggests that nominate *brunneiventris* is latitudinally clinal in size, the size increasing with distance from the equator.

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Rediscription of *Halcyon bougainvillei excelsa* Mayr, 1941

by John E. du Pont and David M. Niles

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During the American Museum of Natural History's Whitney South Sea Expedition, a single specimen of *Halcyon bougainvillei* was collected on 26 July 1927 at 4000 ft, inland from Cape Hunter on the south shore of Guadalcanal Island, Solomon Islands. This specimen, which was sexed by R. H. Beck, the collector, as a female, was designated by Mayr (1941, *Amer. Mus. Novit.* No. 1152: 3) as the holotype (and only known specimen) of a new subspecies, *H. b. excelsa*.

Halcyon bougainvillei is sexually dimorphic in colour. Comparison of the holotype of *excelsa* with nominate *bougainvillei* and with an additional specimen from Guadalcanal now in the British Museum indicates that the holotype was probably wrongly sexed, and was an immature male.

This assessment is based upon the following (capitalized colour names are from Smithe (1975) *Naturalist's Color Guide*). The back of the holotype is, in the main, very dark Greenish Olive, becoming Blackish Neutral Gray anteriorly. The back of the second specimen from Guadalcanal, an adult female taken on 6 July 1953, is uniformly bright Olive-Green. In possessing an essentially olive back, rather than the (presumably – as in *bougainvillei*) deep blue back of adult males, the holotype does seem to be in female-like plumage. The striking difference in brightness between the (very dark) back of the holotype and that of the adult female *excelsa* implies to us, however, that the holotype was a young male. That it was immature is further suggested by its being very faintly barred on the sides of its breast, in this characteristic matching immatures of the closely related *H. concreta*.

The foregoing implies, at the least, that some of the characters attributed to *excelsa* by Mayr may have been based upon the holotype's having been immature or wrongly sexed or both. Nevertheless, *excelsa* is probably a valid race. As Mayr noted, *excelsa* is paler ventrally than *bougainvillei:* the holotype of *excelsa* is pale Cinnamon to Cream Color below; the 1953 bird is Cream Color to virtually white; *bougainvillei* are uniformly deep Cinnamon. Dorsally, adult females of the 2 populations appear to differ as follows: the crown and nape of *bougainvillei* is uniformly Tawny, that of the specimen of *excelsa* is paler, especially on the nape where the bird is Cinnamon. The back of *bougainvillei* is Olive-Green suffused with Tawny, that of the *excelsa* is nearly pure Olive-Green. To our knowledge no specimens of adult male *excelsa* exist, and comparison of the males of the two races must await further collecting on Guadalcanal.

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Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* and Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* in Zambia

by P. B. Taylor

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During the period November 1978 to November 1979 I recorded 2 occurrences of Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* and one of Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* at localities in the Copperbelt Province of Zambia. These are the first reported occurrences of Nearctic vagrants in Zambia.

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*. The first bird was seen at 06.00 hours on 12 November 1978 at Kafubu Lake, Ndola (13°02'S, 28°35'E). The lake is artificially dammed and is the main water supply for the city of Ndola. At the end of the dry season the water level falls rapidly and much mud is exposed at the point where the Kafubu River enters the lake. This area attracts large numbers of southward-moving Palaearctic waders and it was here that the Pectoral Sandpiper was seen, feeding alongside Curlew Sandpipers *Calidris ferruginea* in wet mud and shallow water with grass tufts. It was later seen with Ruff *Philomachus pugnax,* Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*, Marsh Sandpiper *T. stagnatilis,* Little Stint *Calidris minuta* and Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*. Close observations were made in good light until about 08.00 hours and the bird was photographed.

I am satisfied that this bird was a Pectoral Sandpiper and not a Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata*, the breast pattern, leg colour, tail and call serving to distinguish it from Sharp-tailed. The breast had a strong buff wash and heavy dark streaks, contrasting with the pale unmarked chin, and